

PROCEEDINGS
OF THE
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

GENERAL NOTES.

THE GENERIC NAMES ANOA AND BUBALUS.

In the sixth installment of his important paper "On Some External Characters of Ruminant Artiodactyla,"¹ Mr. R. I. Pocock decides that *Anoa*² can not be maintained as a valid genus apart from *Bubalus*;³ and inasmuch as the former name has page priority, he concludes that all the species of the Indian water-buffalo group, including *bubalis*, *mindorensis*, *depressicornis*, and their allies, must be placed together in a genus called *Anoa*. Both of these arguments are open to further consideration. The International Code does not provide for page priority except in a recommendation to revisers that it serve as a guide in making selections between available names of even date. Since Lydekker, in 1913,⁴ with all the known facts before him, has deliberately chosen *Bubalus* over *Anoa* for a group combining all the forms under discussion, *Anoa* can not now replace *Bubalus* unless it can be shown that some other author has forestalled Lydekker's action by an earlier selection. I have been unable to find any previous writer, who has dealt with this group, with a sufficiently modern knowledge of the nomenclature involved to entitle him to figure as a "first reviser"; and apparently Lydekker's selection of *Bubalus* must stand for those who wish to combine the two genera. There is, however, a considerable reason why *Anoa* and *Bubalus* should not be combined. The ten skulls of *Anoa*, representing two distinct species, that I have examined since I published my paper on the buffaloes in these Proceedings in 1911⁵ all agree in the possession of only two lower premolars, which seems to be the normal number for these dwarfish Celebesian buffaloes. It seems quite out of the question, considering this very unusual bovine dental formula, to do away with *Anoa* as a valid genus.

—N. Hollister.

¹Ann. and Mag. Nat. Hist., ser. 9, vol. 2, pp. 456-459. December, 1918.

²H. Smith, Griffith's Cuvier's Anim. Kingd., vol. 5, p. 355. 1827.

³Idem, p. 371.

⁴Cat. Ungulate Mamm. Brit. Mus., vol. 1, p. 40. 1913.

⁵Proc. Biol. Soc. Washington, vol. 24, pp. 191-194. June 23, 1911.